

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8306

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRD, TH

SUBJECT: PENDING TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAILAND

REF : BANGKOK 17565

1. BECAUSE OF MINISTER OSOT KOSIN'S INTENSE PRE-OCCUPATION WITH GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS THAT INCLUDES RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEW GOVERNMENT AS MINISTER OF INDUSTRY HEAD OF NEWLY FORMED OIL COMMITTEE, AND LEGAL MEMBER OF CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE, ECON/CML. COUNSELOR HAS DISCUSSED WITH DR. VIRAPONGSE, CHIEF OF FOREIGN TRADE POLICY DIVISION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CURRENT STATE OF RTG VIEWS ON TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ITINERARY FOR RTG MEMBERS FORWARDED REFTEL REMAINS OSOT KOSIN'S PREFERENCE BECAUSE OF WORK PRESSURES. AS LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE, HE ANTICIPATES HAVING TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO THIS ACTIVITY DURING JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

3. DESIRE OF OSOT KOSIN IS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF PRELIMINARY WORK OF NEGOTIATIONS BE COMPLETED BY DR. VIRAPONGSE AND MRS. ORANUT BEFORE HE ARRIVES. FORMAL NEGOTIATION ON DECEMBER 14 COULD THEN IMMEDIATELY TURN TO THE CORE
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ISSUES OF QUOTA WITH POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT

IN ONE DAY. SHOULD THIS NOT BE POSSIBLE, THEN OSOT KOSIN WOULD DESIRE TO RECESS MEETINGS OVER WEEKEND TO PERMIT THAI DELEGATION TO MEET ALONE AND THEN RETURN TO NEGOTIATING TABLE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, FOR FINAL SESSION AND SIGNING OF DOCUMENT. MR. BARLOW OF HONGKONG WILL NOT BE EMPLOYED BY RTG AS ADVISOR, IN CONTRAST TO PERIOD OF COTTON TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1972.

4. ALTHOUGH OSOT KOSIN HAS INDICATED THAT MAY WOULD BE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE MEETING TIME TO DECEMBER, DR. VIRAPONGSE IS OF THE OPINION, WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BE WELL FOUNDED, THAT SANYA GOVERNMENT BY THEN WILL BE NEARING THE END OF ITS TEMPORARY TENURE OF OFFICE AND CONSEQUENTLY WILL BE WITHDRAWING RATHER THAN APPROVING ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO DR. VIRAPONGSE, AFTER AGREEMENT SIGNED IN WASHINGTON ON MAN MADE FIBERS, A DRAFT OF A LAW MUST THEN BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO AUTHORIZE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TO COOPERATE WITH THE US IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPORT CONTROLS REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. AS MUCH AS THREE MONTHS MUST BE ALLOWED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
SCHODT

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